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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Jeannie M. Arruda, et al

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Case No.: MS0044P

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Herewith

For

PRODRUGS OF DIARYL-2-(5H)-FURANONE

CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITORS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop: PCT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1) (a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
31-March2006

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV660609461 US

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,

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DATE March 31, 2006